01535

1975/05/01

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 2038

~~SECRET~~

ACTION
May 1, 1975

Tab I fwd'd 5/5/75

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: Mr. Clift

SUBJECT: Papal Message on the Vietnamese Refugee Situation

With the memorandum at Tab III, the Department of State reports that on March 28 Pope Paul sent a message to the President expressing his concern over the refugee situation in Vietnam and pleading that the President make every effort to evacuate the Vietnamese refugees.

At Tab I for your signature to the President is a memorandum which would forward an updated reply (in keeping with your guidance at Tab II) to Pope Paul reflecting recent events in Vietnam.

The President's message has been cleared with Paul Theis.

Bill Stearman concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

2. Following Presidential approval, that Jeanne Davis transmit to State the text of the President's message for immediate dispatch to the Vatican.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

~~SECRET~~
GDS RBH 3/9/00

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

2038

~~SECRET~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger K

SUBJECT: Papal Message on the Refugee Situation in Vietnam

Pope Paul has sent a message to you (at Tab B) through Ambassador Lodge expressing concern over the plight of the refugees in Vietnam and requesting that you make every effort to evacuate these people.

At Tab A for your approval is a reply to Pope Paul which would express your concern for the plight of the Vietnamese refugees, outline our assistance efforts to date, provide assurances that these efforts will continue and request that he issue a general appeal for the safe evacuation of refugees from threatened areas.

Your message has been cleared with Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the cable to Pope Paul at Tab A.

APPROVE_____ DISAPPROVE_____

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

~~SECRET~~
GDS KBH 3/9/00

Your Holiness:

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge has conveyed to me your grave concern for the Vietnamese refugees in Da Nang. I fully share this concern and assure you that our efforts continue to assist refugees throughout Vietnam.

At the time of your message, I had ordered an air and sea evacuation of Da Nang using all resources available to us. I have also appealed to other nations, as well as to United Nations Secretary General Waldheim, to assist in this effort. The United States will continue to make every effort to evacuate as many people as possible from threatened areas in South Vietnam. We have been gratified that a number of countries are participating in this effort.

In this regard, I would be grateful if you would issue a general appeal calling for the safe evacuation of refugees from threatened areas. I believe that this would contribute to the goal we share of alleviating human suffering.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Gerald R. Ford

His Holiness
Paul IV
Vatican City, Italy

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Message From The Pope To The President

The condition of the refugees in Vietnam is approaching catastrophy and if something is not done within 24 hours a catastrophy is certain. There are 600,000 refugees in Da Nang and their evacuation is urgently necessary. I plead to you, Mr. President, to make every effort to save these miserable people.

March 28, 1975

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 2038

~~SECRET~~

ACTION
April 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: Mr. Clift

SUBJECT: Papal Message on the Refugee Situation in Vietnam

With the memorandum at Tab II, the Department of State reports that on March 28 Pope Paul sent a message to the President expressing his concern over the refugee situation in Vietnam and pleading that the President make every effort to evacuate these people.

At Tab I for your signature to the President is a memorandum which would forward a reply to Pope Paul.

The President's message has been cleared with Paul Theis.

Bill Stearman concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

2. Following Presidential approval, that Jeanne Davis transmit to State the text of the President's message for immediate dispatch to the Vatican.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

~~SECRET~~
GDS KBH 3/9/00

7506553

2038

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 2, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Papal Message to the President on Vietnam

On March 28 Pope Paul VI sent a message to the President expressing his concern with the Vietnamese refugees in DaNang and pleading with the President to make every effort to evacuate these people. The Pope's verbal message was delivered to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, the President's Special Envoy to the Vatican.

A suggested Presidential reply is attached.

George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested reply.
Rome's 4635 (NODIS)

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GDS KBH 3/9/00

FORM DS 322(OCR)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 3/9/00

EUR/WE:RPGALLAGHER:JKB
4/1/75 X. 28210
WHITE HOUSE

EUR - AAHARTMAN
EA - RMILLER

EA/VN - LPETERS
S/S -

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

IMMEDIATE ROME

STADIS

WH
RPG
AAH
LP
RM
S/S

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, VS, VT
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE POPE

FOR ILLING

1. ILLING REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO THE VATICAN:

2. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR HOLINESS: AMBASSADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE CONVEYED TO ME YOUR GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN DA NANG. I FULLY SHARE YOUR DEEP CONCERN AND ASSURE YOU THAT OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO ASSIST REFUGEES THROUGHOUT VIETNAM.

AT THE TIME OF YOUR MESSAGE, I HAD ORDERED AN AIR AND SEA EVACUATION OF DA NANG USING ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US. I HAVE ALSO APPEALED TO OTHER NATIONS, AS WELL AS TO UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY CONCEIVABLE EFFORT TO EVACUATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE FROM THREATENED AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WE HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS EFFORT.

IN THIS REGARD, I APPEAL TO YOU TO ASK ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN VIETNAM TO PERMIT THE SAFE EVACUATION OF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFUGEES FROM ANY AREA WHERE IT IS NECESSARY. AN ASSURANCE OF SAFE EVACUATION WILL HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND ASSIST IN TRANSPORTING THE REFUGEES TO SAFE AREAS. SINCERELY, GERALD FORD. END TEXT. YY

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

23
ACTION NODS-00 COPY 1 OF 15 COPIES

INFO OCT-01 /001 W
---------- 029598

O 282140Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0344

~~S E C R E T~~ ROME 4635

ACTION COPY

NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM LODGE

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, VS, VT
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE POPE TO THE PRESIDENT

1. ARCHBISHOP BENELLI CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT 2145 LOCAL TIME TONIGHT TO GIVE ME THE FOLLOWING VERBAL MESSAGE FROM THE POPE TO PRESIDENT FORD:

2. BEGIN MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT: THE CONDITION OF THE REFUGEES IN VIETNAM IS APPROACHING CATASTROPHY AND IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE WITHIN 24 HOURS A CATASTROPHY IS CERTAIN. THERE ARE 600,000 REFUGEES IN DANANG AND THEIR EVACUATION IS URGENTLY NECESSARY. I PLEAD TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SAVE THESE MISERABLE PEOPLE. END OF MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. BENELLI RANKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE POPE AND THE SECY OF STATE AS NUMBER THREE MAN AND HE WAS UNQUESTIONABLY PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED BY THE POPE TO GIVE ME THE ABOVE MESSAGE FOR DELIVERY TO THE PRESIDENT.

4. I DREW ON DEPARTMENT'S 0169165 AND TOLD HIM WE TOO HAD HEARD THAT THERE ARE 600,000 REFUGEES IN DANANG. I ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. FULLY SHARED POPE'S CONCERN OVER THE REFUGEES AND WERE EXPLORING ON URGENT BASIS EVERY WAY OF ALLEVIATING THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND TRANSPORTING THE REFUGEES TO SAFER AREAS.

5. I ASSURED HIM I WOULD DELIVER HIS MESSAGE. BEAUDRY

~~SECRET~~

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By KSH, NARA, Date 3/9/00

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

SC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC MO	DOC DA	RECD MO	RECD DA	RECD HR	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION ?
4	2	4	2	9	7502038	Clift

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES
KISSINGER
SCOWCROFT +
DAVIS

FROM: KISSINGER, H
COLBY, W
SCHLESINGER, J
ST EX SEC +

REFERENCE:
S/S 7506553
OTHER

CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE
UNCLAS — LOG IN/OUT
LOU — NO FORN — NODIS
C — EYES ONLY — EXDIS
S — CODEWORD
TS — SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Regarding trip to the Pres regarding his concern for the Vietnamese Refugees

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASSMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT	■		
STAFF SECRETARY			
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			
EUROPE / CANADA	X		
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING			
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			
INTELLIGENCE			

ACTION REQUIRED
MEMO FOR HAK ( )
MEMO FOR PRES ( )
REPLY FOR ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ( )
MEMO AMIS TO Springsteen X
RECOMMENDATION ( )
JOINT MEMO ( )
REFER TO FOR: ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ( )
CONCURRENCE ( )
DUE DATE: 4-10

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
4/3		HAK	X	Pres for Decision (4/10)	
4/30		NSCLS		OBE	
4/30		Clift	S	Refer 5-7	
5/1		HAK	X	Pres for decision (5-9)	
7/23			C	Unknown disposition	

INSTR / DISP / NSC/S

DISPATCH
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:
NOTIFY — & DATE BY
SPECIAL DISPOSITION:
CROSS REF W/
SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: FOLDER:

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:
SEP 16 1975
CRT ID: SA SF
OPEN HP NS
CLOSE WH EP
PA DY

(NBC-74-21 533-147)

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library